

Agency 351

State School For The Blind**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	82.2	9,377	1,335	10,712
Total Maintenance Level	82.0	10,380	1,336	11,716
Difference	(.2)	1,003	1	1,004
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.2)%	10.7%	0.1%	9.4%
Performance Changes				
Washington Federation of State Employees Cost of Living Adjustment/Salary Survey		130		130
Super Coalition Health Benefits		181		181
Classification Revisions		18		18
Performance Pay		20		20
Nonrepresented Employees Cost of Living Adjustment		81		81
Nonrepresented Employees Health Benefit Change		20		20
Pension Method Change		(173)		(173)
Nonrepresented Salary Survey Implementation		86		86
General Inflation		(34)	(1)	(35)
Distance Learning	1.0	210		210
Subtotal	1.0	539	(1)	538
Total Proposed Budget	83.0	10,919	1,335	12,254
Difference	.9	1,542		1,542
Percent Change from Current Biennium	1.0%	16.4%	0.0%	14.4%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration	12.6	2,281		2,281
Braille Production and Distribution	3.7	55		55
Intensive Training Opportunities	22.8	2,607		2,607
Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts	.5	459		459
On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program	43.4	4,925	1,335	6,260
Student Transportation		592		592
Total Proposed Budget	83.0	10,919	1,335	12,254

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Distance Learning**

Accessibility to specialized classes and training can be very difficult for individuals with visual disabilities. Funding digital classrooms expands access to specialized training throughout Washington through the use of current and future technology. Funding this item will also help create additional partnerships on a national level, which could result in federal and private funding to further expand educational and training opportunities for the blind.

EDUCATION - OTHER

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Administration

The administration activity provides leadership in the development and implementation of effective and efficient programs at the Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB).

Braille Production and Distribution

This division assists school districts in meeting the needs of blind and visually impaired children. Services include the production of Braille material for children (and adults); acquisition and distribution of materials and equipment; coordination of purchases for better pricing; and direct and on-line support, including training on new assistive technology. It also trains inmates to produce Braille. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

Intensive Training Opportunities

The school provides an extended core curriculum for blind and visually impaired children that focuses on skills relating to orientation and mobility, daily living, and recreation and leisure. Between 48 and 52 students reside in cottages on the campus.

Off-Campus Services to Students/Districts

Approximately one-sixth of school districts in Washington contract with Outreach Services to obtain itinerant services (direct and consultative) by trained teachers of the blind. This enables districts to provide visually-impaired students with high-quality services in a cost-effective and efficient manner. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

On-Campus 24-Hour Educational Program

As required by both state and federal law, the on-campus educational program in Vancouver offers short-term, 24-hour educational services to blind children, ages kindergarten to 21 years. In addition to academic instruction, students are taught necessary skills to achieve independence and successful transition into the community. The school has a two-year waiting list for admission. It also serves as an evaluation center for blind children throughout Washington. (General Fund-State, General Fund-Private/Local)

Student Transportation

This activity provides for the transportation of students living at home in the Vancouver area and throughout the state. Students in the Vancouver area are transported by Educational Service District #112 (contracted service).